

I've heard thunderstorms in my head, and maybe you have too. It happens when a tragedy occurs—to us, to someone close to us, or to someone we hear about in the news. Our minds become a tempest of “what if” questions. We focus on all the possible bad outcomes. Our fear, worry, and trust in God fluctuate as we wait, we pray, we grieve, and we wonder what the Lord will do.

It's natural for us to be fearful in a storm (literal or figurative). The disciples had Jesus right there in the boat with them, yet they were afraid (Matt. 8:23-27). He used the calming of the storm as a lesson to show them who He was—a powerful God who also cares for them.

We wish that Jesus would always calm the storms of our life as He calmed the storm for the disciples that day. But we can find moments of peace when we're anchored to the truth that He's in the boat with us and He cares.

*Fierce drives the storm, but wind and waves
Within His hand are held,
And trusting His omnipotence
My fears are sweetly quelled. —Brown*

**To realise the worth of the anchor,
we need to feel the stress of the storm.**



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Thunderstorm Thoughts

I laugh every time I hear the radio commercial that has a woman shouting to her friend in conversation. She's trying to talk above the sounds of the thunderstorm in her own head. Ever since a storm damaged part of her home, that's all she hears because her insurance company isn't taking care of her claims.



Insights for Living Standfast in Maturity

- #1. Standfast in harmony, v2-3
- #2. Standfast in joy, v4
- #3. Standfast in gentleness, v5
- #4. Standfast in peace, v6-7
- #5. Standfast in thought, v8
- #6. Standfast in maturity, v9

In Philippians 4:9 there are two steps to the beauty and stability of Christian maturity:

1. _____ how to live, v 9, 2:25-28

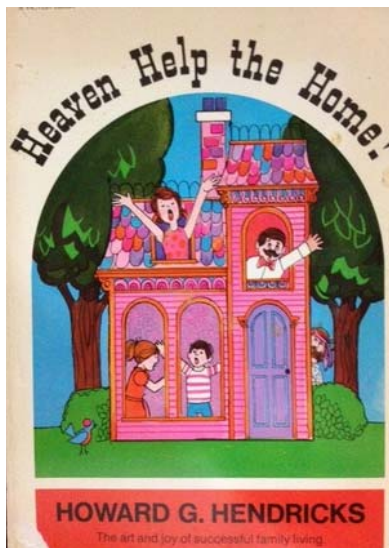
(Matthew 9:13) *"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' ..."*

(1 Thessalonians 2:13) *"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."*

(Acts 16:15) *".. 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.' ..."*

(Acts 16:25-31) *"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. {26} Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. {27} And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. {28} But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, 'Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.' {29} Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. {30} And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' {31} So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.'"*

(2 Corinthians 6:4-10) *"But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, {5} in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; {6} by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, {7} by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, {8} by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; {9} as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; {10} as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."*



2. _____ in life, verse 9

(2 Peter 1:5-8) *"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, {6} to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, {7} to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. {8} For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

(Galatians 5:22-23) *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control. ..."*

(Matthew 7:24-27) *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: {25} 'and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. {26} 'But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: {27} 'and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.'"*

